

2008 Trails & Greenways Conference Session Schedule



Thursday – May 29, 2008

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

1. California Recreational Trails Committee Meeting

Friday – May 30, 2008

9:30 am – 10:30 am

1. Funding Trail Projects with Grants
2. California Riding & Hiking Trails: Revitalizing an Historic Trail in San Diego County
3. Getting Kids Back on the Nature Trail

10:45 am – 11:45 am

1. Outdoor Youth Connection
2. Evaluating Trails for Change in Use
3. Connecting Communities – The San Diego River Parkway

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

1. Managing Multi-Use Trails
2. Coastal Trail Planning Near Agricultural Lands
3. Experience Trails Beyond the Destination

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

1. California Trail Days & Planning a Great Trail Event
2. Building Multi-jurisdictional Consensus for Regional Trails
3. Mini-sessions: Creating Kid Friendly Trails & Serving Diverse Youth: A Model for Future Youth Experiences with Natural Areas

Saturday – May 31, 2008

9:00 am – 10:15 am

1. Creating a Trail Training Film
2. The California Coastal Trail – Shaping the Solution
3. Updating the California Recreational Trails' Plan

10:30 am – 11:30 am

1. Dreaming Big: How Congress Can Help Us Create Works Class Bike/Ped/Trails Networks – The 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation

Funding Trail Projects with Grants

If you are interested in learning how to obtain funds from two annual grant programs for the acquisition and development of trails, this session is for you. These programs include the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the state Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) Program. This session will define eligible applicants and projects, provide grant project development strategies and provide tips and timelines for completing the application process.

2008 Trails & Greenways Conference Session Schedule

California Riding & Hiking Trail: Revitalizing an Historic Trail in San Diego County

Passed by the State Legislature in 1945, the California Riding and Hiking Trail Act called for a “system of riders’ and hikers’ trails” from the Mexican border to Oregon. While many trail segments were established, the system has never been completed. In the 2002 California Recreational Trails Plan, it was noted the California Riding & Hiking Trail (CRHT) had many enthusiastic supporters and recommended looking into the continuance of the trail by working cooperatively with the counties and cities under which jurisdiction the trail resides. The status of the CRHT in San Diego County today will be identified, the plans for the State to transfer its easements and agreements to the County, and discussion of the steps required to successfully revitalize the trail will be shared. Learn how this statewide resource may be able to strengthen the trail system in your region.

Getting Kids Back on the Nature Trail

Now that widespread declining park visitation has been tabulated, and terms like Nature Deficit Disorder are being used to describe many children’s indoor lifestyles, it’s time for programs and media outreach that positively address these issues. The public has a high degree of concern about childhood obesity, diabetes, lack of exercise and minimal exposure to nature and is receptive to hearing positive messages about the healing power of nature and the healthy rewards of hiking and other forms of outdoor recreation. Where there is a problem, there is a solution; where there is a challenge, there is an opportunity. John McKinney presents The Trailmaster’s Ten Point Plan for Connecting Children with Nature.

Outdoor Youth Connection

OYC provides teenage youth with experience and skills in outdoor activities, hiking, camping, and leadership. After a half day orientation, teens engage in 3 days and 2 nights of hands-on experiential training in teambuilding, adventure, and trip planning while camping at a beautiful California State Park. To exercise their new skills, participants then organize and lead their own outdoor trips and projects for their peers and community. This session will describe ways which help engage youth in outdoor activities and hiking. Methods for overcoming socioeconomic and cultural barriers that prevent communities from accessing outdoor opportunities will be detailed. Participants will learn the unique multiplier effect this program has in increasing interest and participation in outdoor recreational activities and hiking.

Evaluating Trails for Change in Use

Is your trail management agency challenged with evaluating potential new uses of a trail or trail system? Learn how California State Parks is addressing this issue with a *Change in Use Survey* instrument. Learn how to objectively evaluate the multitude of variables that effect the decision to change the designated use of a trail. The session will outline why an objective tool is needed, how the tool was developed, the process for evaluating a trail and the potential outcomes of this process.

Connecting Communities: The San Diego River Parkway

The San Diego River is one of the most critical natural features in San Diego County and has been heavily constrained by past development. It has also received enormous recent attention aimed at protecting and enhancing its remaining corridor as the San Diego River Park (SDRP). This session will provide an overview of SDRP planning history and the major organizations

2008 Trails & Greenways Conference

Session Schedule

currently involved. It will then concentrate on highlighting the collaborative planning process for a key trail project that would connect the upland communities of Normal Heights and Serra Mesa and establish a central node in the system. The session will discuss how broad policies, community outreach and master planning concepts are translated into specific project proposals, and the methods planned to fund, construct, and maintain the project.

Managing Multi-use Trails

The session will present a variety of “best practice” methods for managing users on multi-use trails. Examples will be showcased from throughout the country that feature trail management techniques that expand trail opportunities and encourage compatibility among trail users. Specific trail management techniques, how and why applied trail management techniques are generally successful and “best practices” utilized in other parts of the country will be discussed.

Coastal Trail Planning Near Agricultural Lands

This panel will discuss lessons learned in the planning, design, permitting and pre-construction phases of a Coastal Trail project located adjacent to actively irrigated farmland along a 3-mile stretch of coastal terrace below Half Moon Bay, CA. A description of the challenging issues in the process, from addressing the farming community’s concerns with recreational uses in close proximity to their farming operations to overcoming the complex permitting requirements of the Coastal Act, California Environmental Quality Act, state and federal endangered species regulations, and Marine Mammal Protection Act will be presented. Panelists will describe their approach and role in the entire pre-construction process including securing trail easements, land surveying and using GIS for trail mapping. The design considerations covered are common to many large-scale trail projects.

Experience Trails Beyond the Destination

Compound connectivity is the complex link of the physical, mental, and spiritual experience of trails in our growing community fabric. This session will explore the many layers of a trail’s compound connectivity, both physically across the landscape, and consciously in the community. The physical connections of trails should offer every opportunity to link neighborhoods to commercial areas, parks, employment centers, open space, and schools, while also providing a cultural resource that connects the community through multiple layers. This session will explore the municipal agency’s role in providing community connections and operating educational programs, the design consultant’s role in creating trail physical connectivity, and the interpretive and educational opportunities along trail corridors.

California Trails Days & Planning a Great Trails Event

Over 5,000 volunteer hours went into trail projects throughout the state during California Trail Days (CTD) in 2007. This session will highlight the many broad and diverse activities by focusing on the diversity of projects, people involved and timeframes for CTD events. Discussions will address trail improvements, cost vs benefit and the value of volunteers. Trail events can be organized to raise funds, raise awareness and improve your trail system. The registration of volunteer hours demonstrates the desire and support the people of California have for their parks, trails and open spaces. Information and examples will be shared regarding why trail events are important, the kind of events available, the process for planning a successful event, how to promote your event and finally running your event.

2008 Trails & Greenways Conference

Session Schedule

Building Multi-jurisdictional Consensus for Regional Trails

This session will highlight planning, partnership, and consensus techniques that can be utilized to develop a regional open space/trail system across public and private property spanning multiple counties and incorporated municipalities. Learn how to build a regional open space/trail vision that still recognizes the autonomy of multiple local jurisdictions as expressed in their General Plans and ordinances. Discussions will summarize how to balance the concerns of the individual land owner with community and regional objectives in a manner that builds grassroots support and consensus for an open space/trail system. The panel will identify the importance of compromise and flexibility in building partnerships for regional open space/trails.

Creating Kid Friendly Trails

Respond to Richard Louv's call to action addressing Nature Deficit Disorder! You can develop tomorrow's advocates through an exciting statewide Child in Nature Campaign initiated by California State Parks. We'll present an overview of the issue and what is being done to address it. We will focus on innovative ways to promote children's enjoyment of nature by designing creative interpretive trails. Discussion will include why trails are an integral part of this campaign, how to integrate interpretive specialists into the trail design team, and how to evaluate trail design, costs and other considerations when planning interpretive trails.

Serving Diverse Youth: a Model for Future Youth Experiences with Natural Areas

In March 2007, 38 diverse children from the Los Angeles Basin attended Youth Day at Griffith Park. Each child engaged in technology-dependent and technology-independent activities. The session will share a process for setting up a youth day event, the outcomes of the March activities, and a model for future sessions with youth. Discussions will cover why serving diverse groups are important, how to express important determinants of youth participation in outdoor activities and how to develop a model for youth involvement.

Creating a Trail Training Film

Have you wondered how to efficiently train and inform trail maintenance volunteers about the multiple aspects of working in a trail setting? A panel from the Southern California Trail Coalition will discuss their experience on what they learned while producing a trail training film that addressed the specifics of proper dress, safety equipment, the safe use of tools and other very important aspects of trail maintenance work. During this session the panel will share the importance of a training tool and how you can create a training tool for your volunteers.

The California Coastal Trail: Shaping the Solution

This panel will present a history of the California Coastal Trail in Sonoma County and outline a new and developing collaborative model for its completion and enhancement. The session will cover the trail's current gaps and barriers, the role of a local Coastwalk trail group, the development of a "West County Partners" working group and the role of public agencies like the State Coastal Conservancy and the California Coastal Commission in identifying a route for the coastal trail. We will address challenges to completion, methods for streamlining project permit and approval processes, and coordination with local communities and jurisdictions for adding consistent signage along the trail. The model is unique, repeatable and could serve as a statewide model for other trail professionals and advocates seeking to engage the larger community in planning how information can be shared, barriers lifted and collaborative energy magnified.

2008 Trails & Greenways Conference Session Schedule

Updating the California Recreational Trails Plan

The California Recreational Trails Plan completed in June of 2002 identified many goals and action items as well as regional trail corridors of statewide importance and is very helpful in guiding efforts within the trails community of California. Join California State Parks staff in a mini-workshop setting to gather your input on the progress of these statewide goals and actions. Learn the benefits that this plan provides to regional and local trail planners and advocates. To review the plan prior to the session click on www.parks.ca.gov/trails and follow the links to the California Recreational Trails Plan.

Dreaming Big: How Congress Can Help Us Create World Class Bike/Pedestrian Trail Networks – The 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation

In this session, we will look at victories in the last federal transportation legislation (SAFETEA-LU), and explore opportunities in the upcoming reauthorization for creating more trails, and transforming communities into great bikeable, walkable places.

With the creation of the landmark “Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program” (NTTP) in 2005 in (SAFETEA-LU), four pilot communities were given the challenge of demonstrating how to increase bicycling and walking with a \$25 million investment over four years. Craig Tackabery of Marin County, one of the lucky four pilot communities, will share the experiences and lessons learned by the pilots so far, and share some of the innovative programs and projects they are funding with their investment.

Building on the momentum of the Pilot Program, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is spearheading a national campaign to create a \$2 billion Active Transportation program in the next federal reauthorization, due by 2010. San Diego County is one of our active partners in that effort. They will share why they are excited about this national effort, and what it could mean for signature trails like the Bayshore Bikeway.